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FORCED *Out*

*A 200-year-old
promise, a bitter
boundary dispute,
and a powerless
police department
in Mille Lacs*



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HIDDEN TALENT: I am a karaoke contest winner

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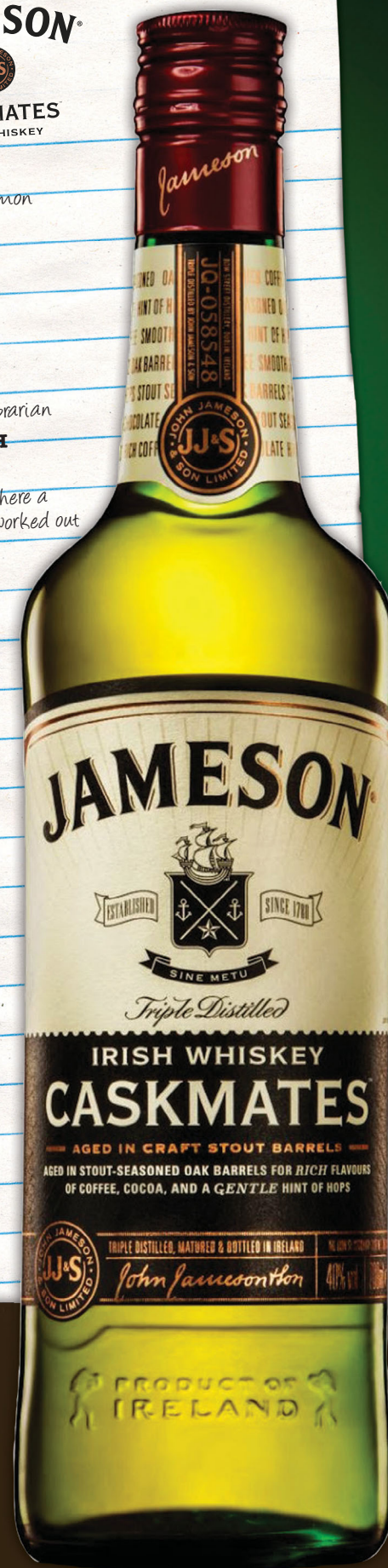
Couples who fight and then make out at the bar

STRANGEST DRINK REQUEST: Cuervo and water

SAGE BARTENDER ADVICE: Be nice to people

**BARTENDER
OF THE WEEK**

Amanda



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A 200-year-old promise, a bitter boundary dispute, and a powerless police department in Mille Lacs. *By Deena Winter*

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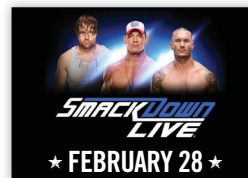
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MSHL WRESTLING TOURNAMENT



★ MARCH 8-11 ★

MSHL BOYS' HOCKEY TOURNAMENT



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★ MARCH 17 ★

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CHRIS JUHN

THE STAT SHEET

44%

Percentage of Minneapolis homes
bought by millennials, the highest
ratio in the nation

46%

Ratio of Trump voters who believe
rumor that Hillary Clinton is
operating a child sex ring

52%

Percentage of Trump voters who
believe he won the popular vote

2.9
million

Actual number of votes by
which Trump lost to Clinton

“We’d all be better off if everyone just
chilled and called each other dude.”

Reader Jeff Hoium responds to “A
Minnesota man just got four years in
prison for marijuana,” at citypages.com

SEE NO EVIL

WHILE THE TREE-HUGGING hippies at
major corporations and the Pentagon
are shaking in their Texas over climate
change, Wisconsin is holding strong.

The state’s DNR recently deleted
from its website any mention of human
involvement in global warming, replacing
it with the big lie that it’s still unsettled
science. Unlike those eco-obsessed CEOs
and generals, Gov. Scott Walker follows
the age-old adage that no problem is
too great to be dumped on our children.

As three-year-old girls are fond of
saying, “If you close your eyes, it must
not be real.”

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Bed bugs at **HENNEPIN COUNTY
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the patient’s fault.

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City of Minneapolis censors
PUBLIC ART coming to
Nicollet Mall

SKYWAY THEATRE:
The booming Minneapolis EDM
hub hidden in plain view

BAIT & SWITCH

Feds find Menards saves big money by hosing its drivers

Menards truckers aren't technically employees. They're "independent contractors," a designation that allows Menards to avoid paying for healthcare and other benefits.

But while Menards shorts benefits, it's very good about loading up restrictions. The truckers aren't allowed to haul for competitors for up to a year after ending their contract. If they turn down a job because the pay isn't worth the time and the gas, they're not given more work. And they're forced to sign away the right to participate in class-action lawsuits.

"They work when Menards wants them to work," says Seth Goldstein of the Office and Professional Employees International Union. "They have to buy a special truck that Menards has designed, so once they're done with these trucks, they're worthless. They basically don't have any of the

benefits of being an employee, but they have all the control aspects."

Last week the National Labor Relations Board weighed testimony from both truckers and the company, concluding the Eau Claire home improvement chain had again violated labor law by misclassifying its drivers. In short, it was paying them like contractors, but treating them like employees. (Menards also ran afoul of the feds last year for making people sign mandatory arbitration agreements as a term of employment.)

If Menards doesn't settle and make amends this time, the NLRB will take the company to court.

According to one Minnesota driver who declined to be named because he's set to testify, Menards "promised you the sun and the moon to get you under that contract, and once you were under it, you were under it. But we never made what they projected."

Instead, he would average 70 hours a week (without overtime pay) in the summer, and only five to 10 hours a week in the winter. He spent half the year sitting on his hands because his contract prohibited him from hauling for other big companies. Any time Menards called to make a delivery on short notice, he'd have to drop everything or get cut on the spot. He missed his son's sixth birthday that way.

No other company has treated him that badly, the driver says.

Menards issued a statement in response to the NLRB finding:

"Our corporation has contracts with various corporations to deliver goods to our customers. These corporations include FedEx, UPS, the United States Postal Service... and more than 500 other corporations.

"We are puzzled why the NLRB is involved with this because we have no disputes with any of these corporations or any of their employees. We believe that ultimately the charge will be dismissed because it lacks any merit."

Goldstein calls it a red herring because Menards' contracts with "various corporations" have nothing to do with its contracts with independent truckers. —SUSAN DU



Dan Ewald, a 54-year-old delivery driver from Wisconsin

COURTESY OF DAN EWALD



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The persons depicted are models used for illustrative purposes.

Suburban Civil War

Sleepy Orono wakes up to a tough new mayor

City leaders in Orono don't have a lot to worry about. Except for other people's yards.

In recent years, the chic western suburb has seen homeowners do jail time for a messy front lawn and an illegal wind turbine.

A year ago, the hottest debate before the city council was whether they should crack down on "living walls," trees or plants that obstructed a neighbor's view of Lake Minnetonka. It was too controversial, and the motion was tabled.

People here shell out a lot to look at the lake. An analysis found an average price of \$1.4 million for a four-bedroom, two-bathroom house in Orono — ninth highest in the country.

Oronoans don't ask much. Keep taxes low — Orono's are as low as they go in Hennepin County — and leave them alone.

So it's curious that a land of prosperity has become home to pugilistic politics. And the blame seems to fall to one guy: Dennis Walsh, soon to be Orono's new mayor.

Over his two years on the city council, Walsh, a real estate developer, built a reputation as a micromanager, needling Mayor Lili McMillan and city employees about purchasing details.

At one meeting, Walsh was pissed that staff hadn't alerted him to a public works project up for bid. As a developer, Walsh has "guys" for all kinds of construction jobs. He wanted a tip off when they'd be eligible for city business.

"I feel like I'm talking to my children who won't ever do what I tell them to do," he told the city administrator and engineer.

Councilwoman Lizz Levang can't recall staffers being "publicly shamed and humili-

ated" prior to Walsh's ascendancy. But the new mayor prefers getting things done the combustible way. "If you're asking if he has attempted to intimidate me, and to intimidate staff, the answer is yes."

Collegiality retreated further when Walsh decided to run for mayor. The Ivy League-educated McMillan fit the city's profile: conservative on property taxes and bright green on the environment. (Lakefront property's no good when the water turns

Walsh has "guys" for all kinds of construction jobs.

a chemical hue.)

Walsh flooded the suburb with campaign ads that were "mostly personal," says former Mayor Jim White, outspending McMillan seven to one.

Perhaps even more effective were publications like "Orono Watch 4 U," which appeared anonymously in mailboxes and depicted Walsh's enemies with black bars blocking their eyes. Walsh has repeatedly accused his foes of plotting in secrecy. Levang and McMillan suspect he was behind the attack, but couldn't prove it.

All three candidates targeted lost their elections, including McMillan.

Walsh undoubtedly drew from a voting pool that fell for another brash real estate developer. His 2,551 votes were one fewer than Orono gave Donald Trump.

As with the president-elect, it can be hard to tell where Walsh's business ends and his government service begins. Recent ads for Denny Walsh, developer — "looking out for your real estate needs, at any price" — prominently list his city council job, as if this made him better qualified for your business.

Walsh's offer to find his own "guys" for city projects becomes more unnerving in the absence of an experienced professional staff. Following the election, City Administrator Jessica Loftus and City Planner Mike Gaffron, perhaps the two most important government employees in town, both resigned.

Loftus held her position for almost seven years; Gaffron was on the job for decades. Insiders say Walsh forced them out, though others say they preemptively quit on their temperamental new boss.

Gaffron declined comment. Loftus' "public reasoning" is that she wants to spend more time with her three young children. She acknowledges that phrase means there's also a "private reasoning," though she demurred on what it might be.

Walsh might still figure it out. Last month, the council rejected his proposal to raise a road tax levy by 8 percent. McMillan and two others said that increase was too sudden and unnecessary, since the city could borrow money, low-interest, as it had always done.

The stakes were rather minimal — about half of Orono's roads are privately owned — but the egos weren't.

Walsh took losing badly, calling the vote one "last shot" by outgoing officials, who were now "looking to handicap the people of Orono."




Mike Mullen

A few days later, Walsh filed a data practices act request on his foes, asking for all of their emails during the six weeks before that meeting. Loftus called the mayor-elect and asked if there was something in particular he was looking for. Maybe she could spare him (and city employees) the trouble of combing thousands of emails.

She didn't get any answers. Neither will you. Asked for an interview, Walsh said he had a "busy work day" and would answer questions by email. He didn't respond to those either.

The real question for Orono is whether Denny Walsh will be any more magnanimous now that he's running the show.

Orono's absurdly healthy housing stock is actually a problem, as far as the Met Council is concerned. The city of 7,000 is supposed to generate more than 300 new "affordable housing" units by 2020, no mean feat in a place where empty lots routinely sell for six figures.

Its leaders on that quest will be rookie council members and brand-new staff, all of whom will answer to Denny Walsh and his "guys." For the sake of the city, it's probably best that they — like departing staff — don't always do what the mayor says. 

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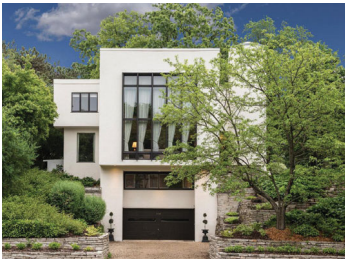
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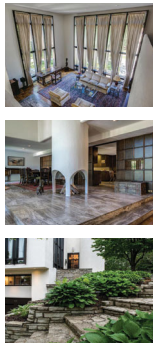
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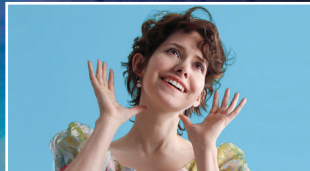
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Forced OUT

A 200-year-old promise, a bitter boundary dispute,
and a powerless police department in Mille Lacs

BY DEENA WINTER

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Interim Police Chief Sara Rice says a policing dispute with the county has impacted public safety on a reservation already grappling with a heroin epidemic.



EMILY UTNE

Bulletproof jacket — check.
Forty-caliber Glock — check.
Badge — check.
Jeff Schafer leaves a small plastic baggie of what he suspects is heroin on his desk, then walks out of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Police Department in Onamia and gets into a black, unmarked SUV on a sunny Thursday afternoon in November. He has everything he needs to do his job as a patrol officer today — except the authority to do it.

“Today is check day,” he says, or “per cap day.” It’s the day tribal band members get a cut of the revenue from Grand Casino, across the highway from the police department. Normally, that means an uptick in activity for police as members decide how to spend their monthly stipend. On a recent “per cap day,” four people overdosed.

Schafer drives northwest, through the wooded, hilly reservation that hugs the southern side of the serene, 200-square-mile Mille Lacs Lake.

“Most are the Boyd family out here,” Schafer says as he drives past a cluster of well-spaced, decent houses. Families tend to stick together on the reservation, he explains.

“There’s Linda,” he says as he slows to wait for a Grand Casino shuttle bus to pick up a woman and take her to the casino. Band members can get a free ride to the casino, which, technically, they own. Elderly band members tend to use the shuttle the most, Schafer says.

He drives south to where land has been cleared and roads built to make way for 146 homes the band plans to build for members. It looks like a typical nascent suburb, with plenty of space between the lots. East of here, the older tribal housing is much tighter, more like a typical residential area. Officer Schafer prefers the space.

“The more they separate houses, the less problems between neighbors,” he says.

There’s less fighting now than when he began patrolling the reservation in 2002.

“When I started, everyone smoked a little weed and drank,” he says. He ran from call to call to call his first five years on the job. “We barely had time to write reports back then.”

He would park his patrol car at an intersection overlooking the older neighborhood, just waiting for the next dispatch.

Now the reservation is dealing with a heroin epidemic. The addicts are less interested in fighting. They get what Schafer calls “the nod,” where their head

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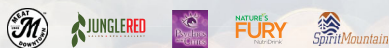
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ABBY PETERSON

droops and they zone out. People on meth get cranked up, but the side effects are less obvious since the Mexican cartels started making it, Schafer says. So now there's less fighting but more property crime, as junkies steal to feed their addiction.

While driving through the older neighborhood, Schafer spots a Mille Lacs County sheriff's deputy named John knocking on the door of a house. The deputy sees Schafer, smiles, and waves. Schafer doesn't know what the deputy is doing there; he didn't hear the call on the scanner.

Normally, that probably would've been his call to take. But not anymore.

Schafer and his 26 colleagues on the tribal police force have been largely handcuffed — stripped of their policing power — by a bureaucratic battle between the band and the county.

While the two sides' leaders duke it out in meetings, emails, and letters, tribal police officers like Schafer are left to do little more than watch the community of 2,500 they once policed. So he waits and he drives. For the next two hours, he won't get a single call from the dispatcher, despite the fact he's likely the closest cop to any call coming in.

Since July he's been patrolling, but not really policing, with no end in sight.

II.

In late July, in the Mille Lacs County Courthouse 33 miles to the south, Schafer's life working the beat ground to a halt.

There, the five-member Mille Lacs County Board of Commissioners voted to end a law enforcement agreement with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

State law allows Mille Lacs County and the band to share responsibility for law enforcement on the reservation, but only if they enter into an agreement. With no agreement, the tribal police force was

Tribal patrol officer Jeff Schafer has been largely handcuffed by the policing fracas, unable to do most of his job for months now.

stripped of its authority to enforce the law. Prior to the vote, the Mille Lacs Band's police force, roughly 30 tribal cops and 10 county deputies, had one of the largest per capita presences in the country, with more than twice as many cops per person as Washington, D.C. The county's vote to void the agreement effectively reduced it by 75 percent.

Suddenly, tribal cops could no longer apply for search warrants, conduct investigations, make traffic stops, or issue citations for violators of state law.

Cops had the same powers to make arrests as any ordinary citizen. If they used firearms to do so, and "caused fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death," it could be a felony punishable by a mandatory three-year prison sentence.

So ended a delicate and sometimes contentious compromise between the county and the tribal police, one that had lasted 25 years and had put public safety above a longtime boundary dispute.

For all its messy consequences, the land fight is fairly simple: The band considers the reservation to be 61,000 acres created by an 1855 treaty between the Chippewa and U.S. The county sees it as just 4,000 acres held in trust, arguing that subsequent treaties and an 1889 law essentially dissolved the original reservation.

The discrepancy bubbled up again this summer, after the band decided to get the feds' help in fighting crime.

Under the Tribal Law and Order Act, federal prosecutors can charge people with crimes in Indian country. Because federal crimes often have more significant penalties, the tribe knew it could use these prosecutions to put criminals away longer.

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But where is Indian country? The county argued that the Mille Lacs Reservation — as defined by that 1855 treaty — no longer exists. The band disagreed. When the U.S. Department of Interior's solicitor general weighed in, he affirmed that the reservation consists of the wider treaty boundaries.

And with that November 2015 opinion, the bureaucratic battle began.

"The whole dispute is over the federal government opinion that the reservation is intact, always has been, and the county's fears about the consequences of that," says Mille Lacs Band Solicitor General Todd Matha.

"That is one promise the [federal] government has managed to keep," says Melanie Benjamin, chief executive of the Mille Lacs Band. "Our reservation has always existed. These few county commissioners are upset about the fact that the United States has actually kept that promise."

For its part, Mille Lacs County has pointed to several other reasons for terminating the police agreement, not least of which was the band's recent, unsuccessful attempt to change state law and gain criminal jurisdiction without a county police agreement.

Indeed, Mille Lacs County Attorney Joe Walsh has said the boundary issue is just one of about 30 the county wants clarified in a new deal.

Matha believes the county's resolution is rooted in irrational fears. He says a county commissioner told him the real worry is that the band might try to pass laws that affect (largely white) non-band members who live within the disputed reservation territory. "It's just not true," Matha says, explaining that non-Indians would have to agree to the laws, or commit a crime that is catastrophic to the tribe, like burning down the reservation.

Matha suspects fishing and hunting rights are also a concern. "I don't know why," he says. "Fishing isn't a criminal matter."

During her July swearing-in speech, Benjamin accused the county of attacking the band, risking public safety, and trying to destroy the tribal police. She said Mille Lacs County officials tried to convince other counties to end their agreements with the band, and to get the state to jerk her officers' licenses.

The decision to replace her 32 tribal officers with 10 county deputies who don't

know the community would jeopardize public safety, Benjamin predicted.

Tribal police say her prediction has come true.

III.

"You can't have much pride when you're doing this," says Jeff Schafer.

While the standoff continues, when someone calls 911 in Schafer's district, he and his fellow officers no longer get dispatched by Mille Lacs County. Instead, a sheriff's deputy responds.

Tribal police monitor the county police radio, although the county doesn't always use radios to communicate. They can then go to the scene, secure it, and assist deputies, since they're licensed Minnesota police officers. But they can't do much else.

"It has had an impact on public safety overall," Interim Tribal Police Chief Sara Rice says. "Trying to combat a heroin epidemic and people bringing that stuff onto the reservation is very hard when you don't have a cooperative agreement."

It's hard even when you do, she says. She can't point to a specific instance where the county deputies didn't arrive soon enough, but she believes response times are likely slower now, since deputies usually have to travel farther than the tribal police. She has no access to their data, however.

The county prosecutor, Walsh, says response times have not slowed, to his knowledge.

Rice's officers still work 24/7, but they can't enforce the laws on crimes that would wind up in county court, everything from traffic violations to felonies. They can enforce tribal law — mostly civil, regulatory matters — over tribal members, but nothing that could bring jail time, since the band doesn't have a jail.

The tribal police now have no authority over non-band members on the reservation, even though many live in cabins along the lake or frequent the casino.

If a tribal officer suspects someone is driving drunk, they could pull the car over, but then they'd have to contact the county to get a deputy there to decide whether to arrest the driver. The tribal cop could only stand by and wait. Secure the scene, twiddle his thumbs.

If a heroin overdose is announced on the radio, a tribal cop can go to the address, then radio the county to send an ambulance, firefighter, or some type

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Then they can wait, and, if asked, assist sheriff's deputies.

When the county yanked the agreement in July, it also unplugged the tribal police from the county's computer dispatch records management system, so they lost access to past police records, and had to do everything on paper. If the tribal officers had to go to court on an old case, the county made copies of computer records for them.

"Not being able to utilize those tools really hindered our ability to do proper police work," Rice said. "To go back to paper — it's shocking."

Officer Schafer said he's sure some criminals have gotten away because officers couldn't get into the computer system.

"Those cases just basically went away because they won't share the information with us."

Before the tribe recently paid \$313,000 for a new records management system, Schafer says their computers were reduced to "\$5,000 email machines."

IV.

One day during this stalemate, county deputies were trying to find and arrest a man on the reservation when a tribal officer arrived on the scene.

He asked who they were looking for, and then informed the deputies that the suspect was sitting in a car parked kitty-corner behind the deputies.

"And he was armed," Mille Lacs Band Solicitor General Todd Matha says.

That lack of knowledge, the inability to spot a person walking on the side of the road and know them by name, is what most concerns tribal officials. The tribal officers know who lives where, who's dating who, where to find people.

Often when Rice would get a call on patrol, she'd say, "Whose house is it?" or "Who's calling this in?" and know exactly where to go.

"Especially if somebody's overdosing or a domestic is in progress, it's very important that we get there ASAP," Rice said.

While Rice is the only band member on the force, many of her employees have been with the department for years, and they are conducting "meaningful community policing," Matha says.

"[Community policing] has been diminished and supplanted by county officers," he says.

During her swearing-in speech, band leader Benjamin pointed to the national debate over racial profiling and police shootings, saying, "Every band member knows that when we leave the reservation, justice can depend on the color of your skin," she says.

"Traffic stops can be impacted by whether or not you have tribal plates on your car. But on the reservation, most of our

tribal officers know us. They know our families. They know our kids. Many know our culture and are part of our community."

County deputies may not know, as Schafer does, that the young man walking up the hill, Eddie, looks a lot like

his brother, Ernie. The deputies may not be familiar with a woodsy area they used to call "Felony Flats" — where Schafer used to have to chase down kids. They may not know that the most prevalent gangs are Native Mob and Native Style or recognize their distinct tattoos, gang signs, and colors — or know how to step in and prevent trouble between rival members.

They may not know that Gail Tyson, 62, who's walking by the lake today in a Care Bears sweatshirt, has lived on the reservation most of her life, and often calls the police when she thinks kids are stealing fencing near her house to buy drugs. (Schafer isn't so sure about that.) With a big, crooked, toothy grin, she proudly tells Schafer how she tells people on drugs they're "ugly looking."

"We've developed relationships in this community," Schafer says. "The new young guys they've hired don't know the community; they're not as invested."

Walsh, the Mille Lacs County prosecutor, said the sheriff's office doesn't engage in racial profiling, but state law enforcement officers can't issue civil/regulatory citations to band members on trust lands, so they often have to ask if an offender is a band member.

He said the sheriff's office would welcome the chance to issue them without doing so, but they know it would be offensive to the sovereignty of the band.

Sgt. James West, a drug investigator with long, sandy blond hair who's worked for the band for 13 years, says the county deputies simply aren't as proactive, and don't understand the culture.

"There's no compassion or emotion," West says.

He's been hamstrung since July, since most drug crimes are felonies that would



ABBY PETERSON

have to be prosecuted in state court.

"It's not a fun situation to be in," he says.

When a call comes in, his officers know where to look for suspects.

"People don't really have permanent addresses around here," he says. County deputies don't have that working knowledge.

"When they try to work alone, they get frustrated," Schafer said.

Rice says it's disheartening for her officers to see a "lack of effort when it comes to investigations" by the county cops. It could be lack of experience, or "lack of care factor," she said.

The county prosecutor, Walsh, disagrees, saying the quality of law enforcement is "directly comparable" to the band. The county has covered the additional territory with emergency moves such as canceling vacations for all deputies and hiring more deputies — six so far, with four more to come, according to Mille Lacs County Administrator Pat Oman.

Two of the new county deputies are being hired with federal grants that will last three years, but the additional hires will cost the county more than \$500,000 the first year.

"Mille Lacs County remains committed to providing excellent law enforcement services to all of its citizens," Walsh said.

Those county deputies are overseen by Mille Lacs County Sheriff Brent Lindgren. A 2008 photograph of Lindgren recently began circulating online, showing him wearing a "Native Pride" baseball cap. It was considered disrespectful because he is white, not Native American. Lindgren did not return repeated phone calls seeking comment.

One of his deputies also made waves when a high-speed chase in the county ended with him "accidentally" shooting an unarmed white man in June. The deputy said his weapon went off as he switched hands to use his public address system. The suspect was arrested on drug charges, and the deputy was placed on leave during an

Sara Rice says she tries to keep tribal officers' morale up, despite the fact they're unable to fully do their jobs.

internal investigation by the department, and then the state.

The deputy received additional firearms training, and physical and mental evaluations, before returning to work. Tribal police declined to comment about this incident on the record. Privately, some point to it as if to say, "And they don't think we're good enough?"

V.

You might think being a cop without the authority to do much would be a welcome break. A chance to enjoy easy, low-stress days, watching county deputies scramble to cover your turf.

You'd be wrong. Mille Lacs officers want this bureaucratic pissing match to end so they can get back to work.

Michael Ritter, a tribal investigator for almost 10 years, thinks his is the best-trained agency in a 100-mile radius.

"I'd love to get back to being busy," he says.

Rice says she tries to keep morale up, stay positive, and focus on the community.

"It's hard to be a cop and not be able to do your job to the fullest capacity," she says.

"We have 27 officers just sitting by trying to do the best they can."

All the while the heroin keeps flowing.

"The abuse of the drug leads to other crime — stealing, burglaries, elder abuse," she says. "It is so prevalent and it's so in your face that it's hard for police officers to just stand by and not pursue information that could lead to a productive prosecution."

Chris Sailors, a criminal defense attorney in Mille Lacs County, says he's seen a substantial drop in the number of new charges against band members since the county took over law enforcement.

"Either crime stopped up there or something's going on," he says. "I think

it's too much of a coincidence."

Officer Schafer says tribal police used to submit as many cases to the prosecutor as the rest of the county combined.

Walsh says he has no stats on prosecutions since July because his office only keeps county-wide statistics and he doesn't have partial-year prosecution stats. He says he hasn't seen any "definitive, overall decline" in cases submitted for charging from Mille Lacs Band trust lands.

"Many crimes — from petty misdemeanors to serious felonies — have been submitted to the Mille Lacs County Attorney's Office for charging after investigation by the sheriff's office and other law enforcement agencies such as the State Patrol," he says.

August to October is a small sample size to determine the number of cases submitted, he adds, especially when investigations can take a long time.

VI.

The two sides are scarcely talking anymore.

"I don't call it 'negotiations' any longer," Matha says. "The county has essentially — isn't really bargaining or negotiating in good faith."

Walsh says the county gave the band a proposal in September, and on October 17 Matha rejected it, calling it offensive. The band countered with a deal similar to the old one, with changes that didn't address the county's concerns and seeking more authority for tribal officers to make arrests outside of tribal jurisdiction, Walsh says.

Matha says the band is trying to get its officers deputized federally, making each cop more like a Bureau of Indian Affairs officer, with criminal jurisdiction through federal law.

Jessica Intermill, a St. Paul attorney who focuses on tribal and Indian law, says these types of policing agreements allow first responders to do their jobs regardless of who needs help.

Boundary disputes are culturally, historically, and politically relevant for tribes because they're seeking to enforce promises the U.S. made 200 years ago, she says.

"The opposition tends to be very fear-based," she says, with people afraid tribes will start seizing land from property owners, or build a casino on every corner. Those fears are largely unfounded. "The Supreme Court has already put very strict boundaries around what tribes can do to non-Indians."

The DOJ offered mediation services, and senior conciliation specialist Kenith Bergeron, who had been involved in the

Philando Castile matter, set up tentative dates to meet with each side. But the county ultimately refused to participate: According to Matha, Bergeron drove up to visit with county employees and was told they were all in training that day, and unable to meet; then he found the sheriff sitting in his office.

Walsh says he was aware of Bergeron's visit, but the mediator "never, at any time, called me or asked to see me."

Benjamin said the county declined mediation and wanted negotiations kept confidential.

"The county is seeking an exemption from its obligations under the Public Disclosure Act to ensure confidentiality," she wrote.

Walsh said county officials believe the best way to iron this out is through confidential negotiations "to focus on solving real problems and avoid posturing for political purposes."

And the county doesn't consider the Justice Department impartial: When county officials asked the feds about the Interior Department's opinion of the boundary dispute, they got no answers. Walsh says the federal attorneys knew the opinion would side with the tribe, and "deliberately misled" the county "on orders from Washington, D.C."

Walsh says he'd welcome the tribal police back if they can negotiate through the county's 30 county issues.

"Mille Lacs County has not, and will not, ask the Mille Lacs Band to give any land held by the band, whether in trust or in fee ownership," he said. "Mille Lacs County recently chose not to appeal the Mille Lacs Band's placement of several significant

parcels into trust, which the county hoped would improve the relationship between the band and the county."

While the band is open to negotiations, Benjamin has said "we will never compromise our reservation boundary."

Matha says no tribe would make concessions when it comes to its land, which has been whittled away over centuries.

"The band is never going to be negotiating away its land base," he says. "So if it rests on that... there's not really good-faith negotiation."

Meanwhile, Schafer returns to his office and tests that baggie of white powder that hotel workers found in a nightstand and suspected was drugs. He runs a few tests before determining it's not heroin. This time. Rather than drive around for a few more hours and wait for calls that won't come, he's ready to call it a day. ☐

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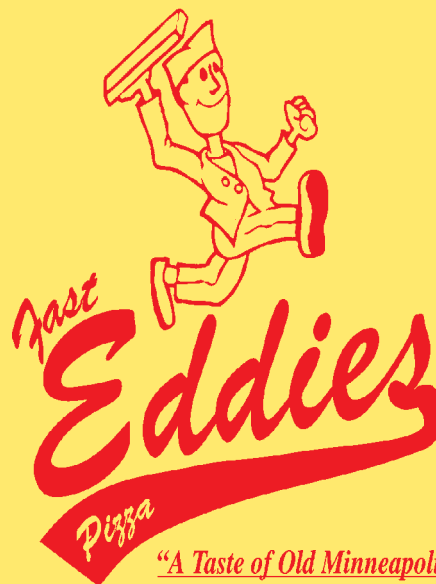


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UN-MEAT-ABLE

The five best places to get a vegetarian meal in the Twin Cities



Tori Ramen's top-selling vegetarian shoyu

SASHA LANDSKOV

BY MECCA BOS

The astonishing explosion of restaurants in the Twin Cities brings with it much of the cooking locals have been longing for: handmade dumplings, real-deal barbecue, high-end taquerias, East African food, ramen!

Vegetarians have it way better than ever, too, with veggies taking on the prominent role once reserved for animals of land and sea.

Here are five restaurants that are not vegetarian, but where non-meat eaters will find welcome and easygoing rapport with the menu, staff, and even their flesh-eating counterparts. Herbivores, dine fuss-free and deliciously.

Tori Ramen

161 N. Victoria St., St. Paul
651-340-4955; toriramen.com

Typically, ramen is a fairly porky endeavor. Tonkotsu ramen, made with rich pork broth, is the prototypical bowl clouded with fat, fleshy cutlets bobbing around on top. In ramen shops, vegetarians and vegans often have to settle for udon or miso preparations, missing out on the fetishistic beauty and incomparable richness of a real bowl of ramen.

Vegetarians, Tori Ramen has got you.

From the start, owners Jason Dorweiler and Asiya Persaud knew they wanted to eschew pork altogether. They figured there were enough diners who omit that particular protein from their diets, and they wanted a more inclusive ramen shop.

Moreover, they don't think anyone will miss the porky broth, and thus far, we haven't. For flesh eaters, lots of poultry stock is on the menu. But the owners say their top seller is the vegetarian shoyu (soy sauce broth), a sure sign of how ready vegetarians were for ramen.

The broth, flavored heavily with umami-rich layers of burdock, seaweeds, fermented mushrooms, and garlic oil, ensures you won't even miss meat stocks, the bottom-heavy depths of which can be crucial to satisfying a winter soup craving. Plus, the addition of celery root, yu choy (a dark Chinese green), bean sprouts, and scallions provides the medicinal vegetation your body demands during icky virus season.

Two other selections on the tight menu, the tantanmen or spicy Szechuan, and the

kor dee yuh or Korean-style, can easily be made vegetarian — just ask. They'll also accommodate gluten-free diets.

The Himalayan

1415 Fourth St. SE, Minneapolis
612-332-0880; himalayanmomo.com

While the new Chipotle-styled Himalayan in Dinkytown still serves meat, it's just as easy, possibly even easier, to bypass it for veggie options. And those options are swoon-worthy. Remember, Nepalese, Indian, and Tibetan cooking has millennia of meat-free history to recommend it.

Crispy puffed samosas are stuffed with garam masala, turmeric, and chile powder-laced potatoes and peas. Onions and jalapeños are scrambled up with batter and deep-fried into haystacks. Black lentils,

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ginger, and fresh cilantro find their way into pancakes that are then pan-fried. And those are just the first three selections on the appetizer list.

Meanwhile, get vegetarian momo, their specialty steamed dumplings served with addictive tomato-cilantro dipping sauce. Or try any of the house soup and salad selections, and 14 vegetarian and vegan entrees from spiced jackfruit to mustard green saag to creamy curry to palak paneer.

When you're done with all that, turn to tofu biryani; six handmade naan, poori, roti, and paratha breads; and mango pudding for a sweet, tropical finish.

It's a vegetarian feast that's quick, fresh, and easy on the pocketbook.

Seward Co-op Creamery

2601 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis
612-230-5575; coopcreamery.coop

The first iteration of this vegetable-focused fine-dining dinner spot didn't fly. But there's no need to fret, vegetarians. Since closing the original concept and re-opening with a more casual, approachable design, Seward Co-op Creamery has proven no less concerned with dietary preferences and restrictions.

The new, brighter, friendlier Seward has added easy-to-read graphic menus that boldly state "vegan, vegetarian, and MWOG" (made without gluten).

The bulk of the menu is already vegetarian, though meat-eaters are embraced here, too, and everyone can live in agree-to-disagree harmony. A veg-omnivore duo can even have the same dish, made with or without meat. Take the breakfast hash, for instance. It comes with seasonal vegetables, hash browns, and sunny side up eggs and can be enjoyed with or without pastrami.

Or check out the smoked beet Reuben, which allows vegetable lovers to enjoy that classic sandwich, with Russian dressing, housemade sauerkraut, Swiss, and toasted rye. It can be made vegan upon request, and even gluten-free and vegan, if that's your pastrami-free, wheat-free jam.

Seward is still a no-tipping establishment. It's one of the few restaurants making that experimental but worthwhile endeavor work, just like the ambitious yet constructive adventure of the meatless Reuben.

Moroccan Flavors

920 E. Lake St. #126, Minneapolis
651-410-0361; moroccanflavorsmpls.com

Morocco's position at the crossroads of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern cuisine results in heavenly treatment of beans and legumes, couscous, stewed fruit, breads, and, of course, every sort of vegetable.

The latter gets the most gracious treatment here, in a vibrant spectrum of

color and texture pumped up with alluring spice and extracts. Find glistening jewel-cut beets; whispery tendrils of carrots perfumed with rosewater and a dusting of cinnamon; nose-tickling, chile-laced cauliflower; eggplant smooth and deep with smoke. Each can be purchased as individual dishes, or you can have all of them together in a salad sampler for \$8.95

For a fortifying winter entree, order a root vegetable tagine over tumeric rice.

No veg escapes without a graceful touch by classically trained chef Hassan Ziadi. He's accomplishing his life's calling here at this small but extremely mighty Midtown Global Market gem.

Also ask about the chef's table, where the food is served in gorgeous, colorful ceramic Moroccan tagines. And don't forget the fresh mint tea, a social imperative in Morocco, a flavor that's essential here.

Esker Grove

723 Vineland Pl., Minneapolis
612-375-7542; eskergrrove.com

Finer dining in Minnesota too often involves cuts of meat the size of a human head draped over potatoes oozing with dairy.

Many have tried, and failed, to push the vegetable into the limelight. If anyone can succeed at this, it's probably Doug Flicker. He revolutionized the notion of what dinner can mean by nudging the oversized meat-starch-veg plate completely off the menu and out the door at his rebellious little restaurant Piccolo.

Now that he's back in Lowry Hill (recall that his first important restaurant, Auriga, was also in that 'hood), he's unapologetically positioning cauliflower and parsnip and even seaweed as the main event.

As for side dishes, find "nuts, grains, and seeds" instead of the standard \$6 vegetable sides, too often relegated to a strip at the bottom of the menu.

Occasionally, plant-based preparations do come augmented with animal product, but not usually. Caramelized goat's milk enriches parsnip and escarole, but you're just as likely to find miso and preserved mushrooms making a rice bowl into a lively vegan lunch.

Even now, when the ground is sealed with frost, vegetables at Esker Grove take on innumerable permutations of size, shape, and color. Food-as-art becomes a serious proposition at this serious art institution.

That said, the cooking here is not so serious that French fries can't be considered a vegetable, and grilled cheese can't take its rightful place as an important lunchtime sandwich option.

Just because you eat your vegetables doesn't mean asceticism is on the docket. It's never been a better time to be an eccentric, indulgent herbivore. **GF**



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Arctic Fever 2017 Winter Festival January 12-15

Shorewood, Tonka Bay, Excelsior

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8 | 8-11am

Legion Omelet Breakfast

American Legion 259, 24459 Smithtown Rd

The omelet breakfast is fun for the entire family. Funds raised support Arctic Fever.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12 | 6-8pm

Art Via Vino

Instructor: Marla Mullaney

Come celebrate winter, paintin', sippin' and creating a wintertime scene! "Snowy Hillside" at Lord Fletcher's. Space is limited so register yourself or your group right away! \$35/per person (no painting experience required!) Space is limited.

Registration required: <http://artviavino.com/event/arctic-fever-lord-fletchers/>

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13 | 5:30-7:30pm

Snow Sculpting & Free Pizza Party

Southshore Center, 5735 Country Club Rd, Shorewood, 55331

Free Snow Sculpting: No experience necessary! Families, friends, businesses, organizations, school groups--anyone can join in! Blocks are provided, just bring your ideas. GREAT PRIZES! Sculpting takes place January 6-13.

Reserve your block by January 4 online. www.arcticfever.net or call 952.960.7902.

Free Pizza Party: Joey Nova's pizza party, complete with fire art dancers, geo-caching, and New Horizon Academy kids crafts. Vote for your favorite snow sculpture, enjoy pizza, beer tasting by Excelsior Brewing and cider.

No registration necessary for the party.

**No snow? Winter scarecrow contest will replace sculptures.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

Shorewood: Freeman Park, 6000 Eureka Rd

10am-2pm: Dog Sled Rides | Horse-drawn sleigh rides | Sledding | Bonfire

11am-1pm: Snowshoeing & Kick Sleds | Llamas

12:30-1:15pm: Snow Yoga for all ages | Bring a mat if you have one!

Tonka Bay: Manitou Park, County Road 19

12-3:30pm: Skating, Cocoa and S'mores | Photo Board & Character Visits

12:30-1:30pm: SLMPD ATV | 2-3:30pm: Snow Shoeing | 2:30-3:30pm: Human Bowling on Ice

1:30-3:30/4-6pm: Arctic Bowling (Country Club Lanes, 5601 Manitou Rd, \$12.99 (Save \$3 when you bring a non-perishable food item) Space is limited. Reservations: 952.474.5959

Excelsior: Downtown

10:30am: Brodini Comedy Magic Show (Library, 343 Water St)

11am-3pm: Horse-drawn wagon rides | Snow Kite demo (in the Commons)

12:30-1:15pm: Excelsior Brewing & Erik's Bike's Fat Tire Bike Race

Registration required, www.arcticfever.net | 3-11pm: Post Race Party (Excelsior Brewing, 121-3rd St.)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15 | 11am-1:30pm

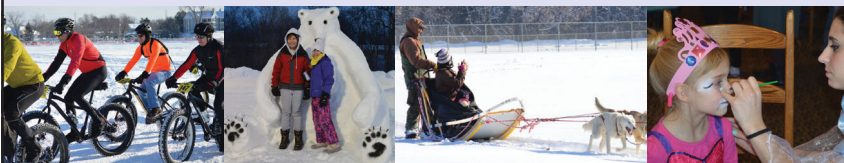
Princess Brunch

Lord Fletcher's, 3746 Sunset Dr, Spring Park, 55384

Your princess won't want to miss all of the fun at the annual Princess Brunch. The family can enjoy brunch followed by crafts, stories, music, and a grand prize drawing for an American Girl doll!

Activities are free with brunch. Each child will be entered into the drawing. Reservations fill up quickly, so don't miss it!

Registration: Call (952) 471-8513. Space is limited.



MORE INFO AT WWW.ARCTICFEVER.NET

Liberty Falls, 54321

January 5th - February 5th 2017

Thurs - Sun at the Lab Theater

www.themovingco.org

Directed by Dominique Serrand

Featuring:

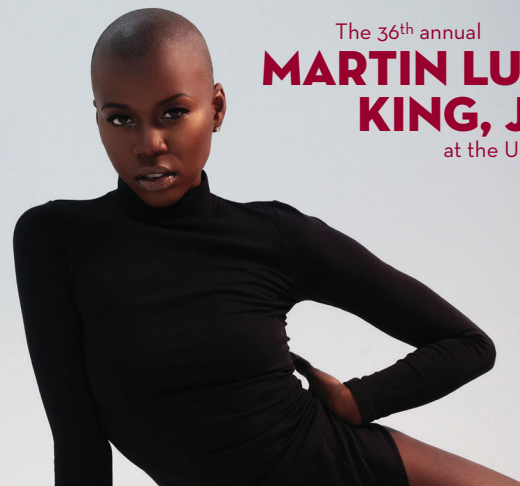
Heidi Bakke, Christina Baldwin,
Jennifer Baldwin-Peden,
Steven Epp, Nathan Keepers,
Gabriel Murphy and
Dom Wooten

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

A LIST

SATURDAY Party with the Art Shanties P. 23

SUNDAY Artists reflect on Minnesota's colorful past P. 24

MONDAY Oysters and champagne at Heyday P. 24

WEDNESDAY 1.4

COMEDY

PETE LEE

ACME COMEDY CO.

Mild-mannered comedian Pete Lee has an interesting new gig. "I just taped *Jeff Ross Presents Roast Battles* for Comedy Central," he says. "I'm going to be on the upcoming season of it." The show pits comics against each other, bracket tournament style, to see who has the best roasting skills. "I have such a nice-guy persona, and I hate conflict," he says. "I just thought it would be something really fun for me to do to get me out of my comfort zone. Turns out that between my joke writing and the hidden rage of every nice person, I am really good at it." While taping the series, Lee noticed an interesting dichotomy between doing standup onstage and being a roaster. "In a roast, it's the job of the people roasting you to tell everyone about who you are," he says. "When you're onstage, you do the same thing about yourself. It's interesting because you get to know both through their most embarrassing facts." 18+. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$15-\$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday - P.F. WILSON**

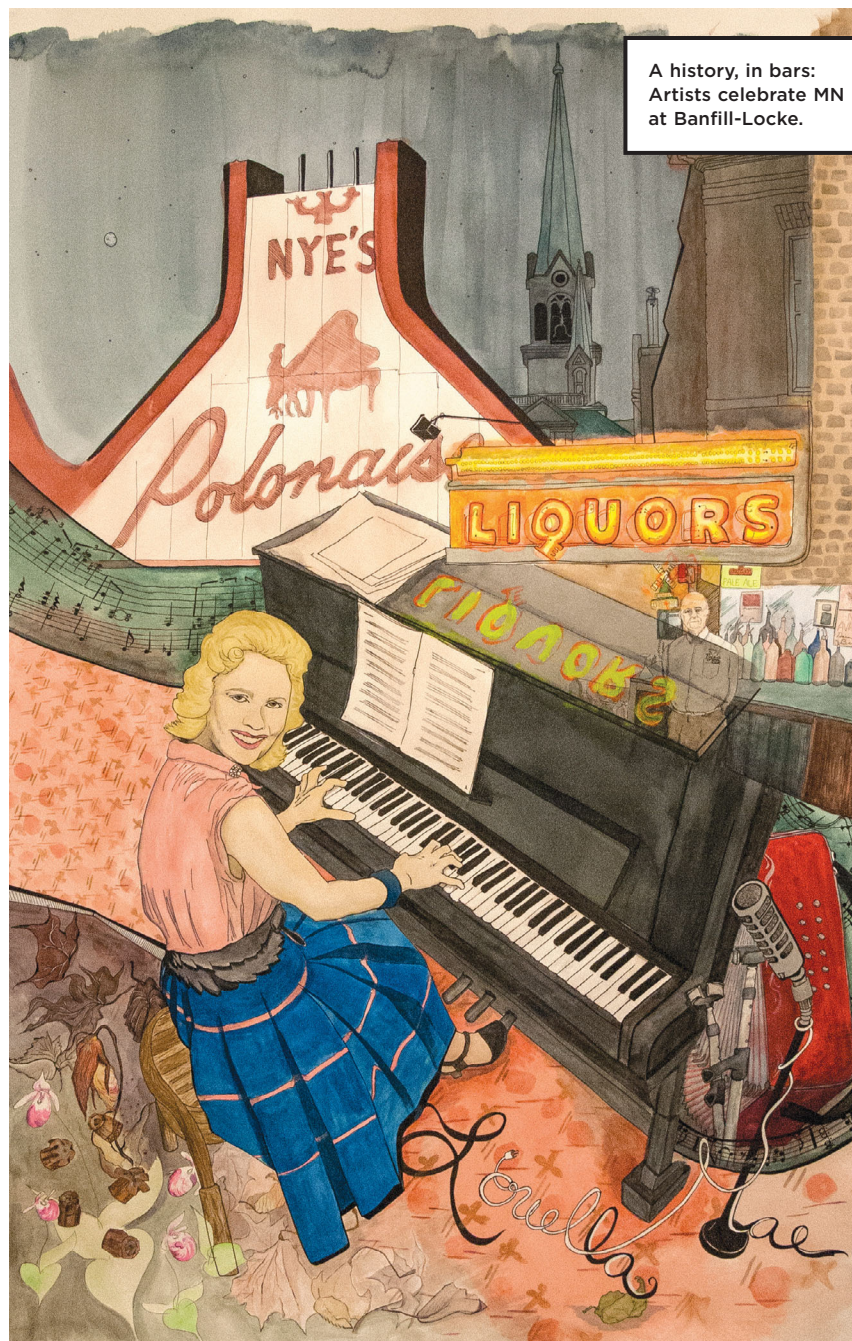
THURSDAY 1.5

BARHOPPING

PINT OF MUSIC

LAKES & LEGENDS BREWING COMPANY

Setting out to demonstrate the universal appeal of classical music, members of the Minnesota Orchestra have teamed with local brewpubs for an egalitarian event, dubbed Pint of Music. Formerly known as Symphony and Suds, this evening will take place at the Lakes & Legends taproom, and is open to the public. Featuring a brass sextet consisting of two trumpets (Charles Lazarus, Lynn Erickson), a horn (Michael Gast), trombone (R. Douglas Wright), and tuba (Steven Campbell),



the musicians will put forth a melodic sampling of orchestral favorites. All the while, audiences are welcome to raise a pint of the distinctively Belgian-Minnesotan flavors that have come to typify Lakes & Legends. Those

particularly taken by what they hear (or taste) will want to visit Orchestra Hall on January 28 for *Inside the Classics: Love in a Time of War*, a special concert at which Lakes & Legends will be providing drinks. So

come experience the enticing blend of ales and orchestration without the tux and evening gown. 7:30 p.m. Free. 1368 Lasalle Ave., Minneapolis; 612-999-6020. —BRAD RICHASON

ART/GALLERY

FREE TIME

ARTISTRY AT BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Solemn, quiet tones merge into rich, passionate palettes that bring earth and sky into a liminal place of deep emotion and meditation. Such is the work of Lindsay Halleckson, whose solo exhibition this month brings viewers to a contemplative place, one we seek this time of year — especially this year. She works in acrylics and other media, building layers of paint on a wet canvas to create absorbing abstractions in which you can easily lose yourself. Instead, notice the feathery, fine brushwork tickling the edges of form, and the drips cascading down the canvas like grief-laden tears. 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington; 952-563-8575. **Through February 26 - CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

FRIDAY 1.6

THEATER

HOW TO HAVE FUN IN A CIVIL WAR

CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY

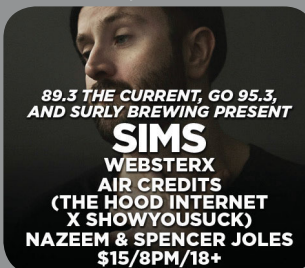
After last fall's successful run of *How to Have Fun in a Civil War*, Somali playwright and performer Ifrah Mansour is coming back to the Children's Theatre. The one-act solo piece draws on Mansour's own memories living through the 1991 Somali Civil War, and includes stories from 15 anonymous community interviewees and writer Ahmed Yusuf. Mansour takes a playful, humorous approach to the subject matter, illustrating the incredible resilience of children who live through desperate circumstances. Mansour shows life through the eyes of a child

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 ►

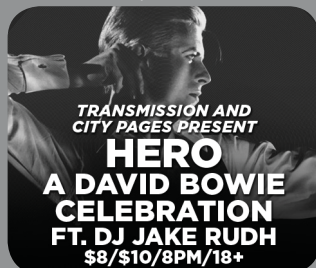
THE MAINROOM

BEST CONCERT VENUE, BEST CONCERT, BEST CONCERT (TOURING), BEST CLUB DJ - City Pages 2016

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6



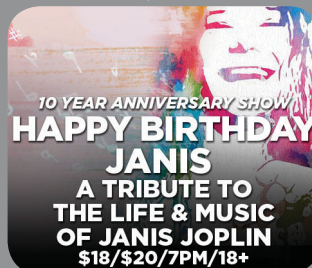
SUNDAY, JANUARY 8



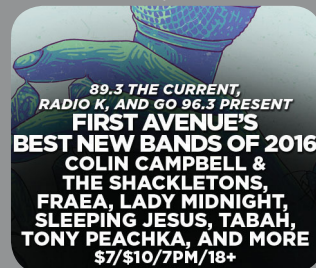
FRIDAY, JANUARY 13



SATURDAY, JANUARY 14



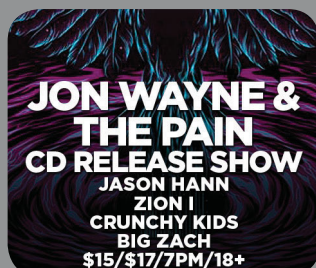
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18



FRIDAY, JANUARY 20



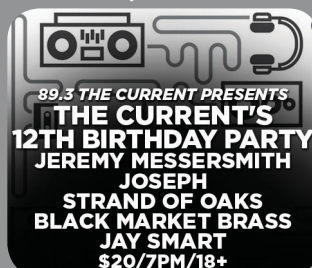
SATURDAY, JANUARY 21



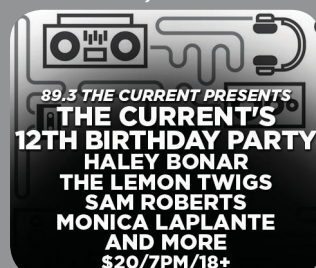
THURSDAY, JANUARY 26



FRIDAY, JANUARY 27



SATURDAY, JANUARY 28



SUNDAY, JANUARY 29



MONDAY, JANUARY 30



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10



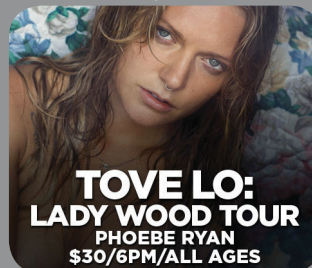
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1



FRIDAY, MARCH 3
SATURDAY, MARCH 4



SUNDAY, MARCH 5



FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON PERFORMERS AND COMPLETE SHOW LISTINGS VISIT FIRST-AVENUE.COM
BUY TICKETS AT THE DEPOT TAVERN (11AM - 1AM SUN-THURS, AND 11AM-2AM FRI & SAT), ETIX.COM, OR BY CALLING 1-800-514-3849.
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ALSO COMING TO THE MAINROOM

- 3/06 BLACK JOE LEWIS & THE HONEYBEARS 18+
3/09 THE GROWLERS: CITY CLUB SPRING TOUR 2017 18+
3/10 MAC SABBATH WITH METALACHI - THE 2017 MOCKSTROSITY TOUR w/ OKILLY DOKILLY, METALLAGHER 18+
3/12 HIPPO CAMPUS ALL AGES
3/15 COLD WAR KIDS 18+
3/16 VINCE STAPLES: THE LIFE AQUATIC TOUR w/ KILO KISH ALL AGES
3/18 PASSENGER w/ THE PAPER KITES ALL AGES
3/21 ANDREW MCMAHON IN THE WILDERNESS w/ ATLAS GENIUS, NIGHT RIOTS 18+
3/23 RAILROAD EARTH - WINTER TOUR 2017 w/ BILLY STRINGS 18+
3/24 GALACTIC - WINTER TOUR w/ THE HIP ABDUCTION 18+
3/29 SON VOLT 18+
4/02 FOXYGEN 18+
4/08 MARGO PRICE 18+
4/17 THE ZOMBIES - 'ODESSEY AND ORACLE' 50TH ANNIVERSARY w/ DJ JAKE RUDH (TRANSMISSION) 18+
4/19 SLEEP 18+
4/20 MAYDAY PARADE - A LESSON IN ROMANTICS 10TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR w/ KNUCKLE PUCK, MILESTONES ALL AGES
5/01 & 02 VULFPECK 18+
5/03 TESTAMENT w/ SEPULTURA, PRONG 18+
5/21 BONOBO 18+

7TH ST ENTRY

- 1/04 REMO DRIVE, EGO DEATH, AND AUTUMN KID 18+
1/05 AYVAH, JUNIPER DOUGLAS, AND GOOD LUCK FINDING IRIS 18+
1/06 CLOUDY KID EP RELEASE PARTY w/ FOCUS, PRIVATE GUY 18+
1/07 THE AWFUL TRUTH ALBUM RELEASE SHOW w/ STRANGE RELATIONS, WETTER 18+
1/08 MELODIC FLOW FT. RICH GARVEY w/ DOKS, NICK JORDAN, RADIO AHLEE, BLAMSISS, PHIB, HOSTED BY MICAMAY 18+
1/10 WELCOME BACK FROM AUSTRALIA ft. CED LINUS, STI-LO REEL, NIKO SLIM, DJ AIRMAN HEAT, LOUIE P, TEK, BIG WIZ, LYRIC MARID, REEFA REI, HOSTED BY MIXIE D & COOLY 18+
1/11 FROZEN OVER FT. NESS NITE, LUCIEN PARKER, DRELLI, HOSTED BY DJ SMOOVE 18+
1/13 GREAT GOOD FINE OK w/ FLOR 18+
1/14 SEAN ANONYMOUS BIRTHDAY SHOW FT. SEAN ANONYMOUS AND DJ NAME w/ DJ FUNDO, DJ SOPHIA ERIS, J. PLAZA, MONCELAS BOSTON 18+
1/15 SAKE RED w/ J. PLAZA, BABY SHEL, KASHY, NATE MILLYUNZ, TAE SUPREME, DJ QUINCY JAMES 18+

TURF CLUB

- 1/04 ANDREW BRODER & PEOPLE RESIDENCY FOR MUSIC & ACTION w/ KILL THE VULTURES, CRESCENT MOON AND ANDREW BRODER, BIG CATS, CHANNY LEANEAGH DJ SET 21+
1/06 GODHEADSILO w/ COREY J BREWER, NOVACRON 21+
1/07 THE BLIND SHAKE, BIRTHDAY SUITS, AND CATBATH 21+
1/08 CHARLIE PARR: SUNDAY RESIDENCY w/ MOTHER BANJO 21+
1/11 ANDREW BRODER & PEOPLE RESIDENCY FOR MUSIC & ACTION w/ ANDREW BRODER & ALAN SPARHAWK, DIZZY FAE 21+
1/12 OL' YELLER w/ THE GLEAM, THE SILENT TREATMENT 21+
1/13 AN EVENING OF TRIBUTES 4 FT. ABBASOLUTELY FAB (ABBA TRIBUTE FT. KATY VERNON AND FRIENDS), ELECTRIC WARRIOR (T. REX TRIBUTE FT. MEMBERS OF LITTLE MAN), TROMPE LE MONDE (PIXIES TRIBUTE) 21+

For show announcements, updates, set times, giveaways, and more:

@FIRSTAVENUE /FIRSTAVENUE @FIRSTAVENUE FIRST-AVENUE

UPCOMING SHOWS AT OTHER VENUES



FRIDAY, JANUARY 6
City Pages presents
CRACKER AND CAMPER VAN BEETHOVEN
at FINE LINE
\$20/7:30PM/18+



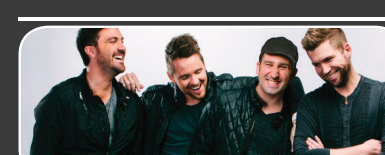
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25
BEAR'S DEN
at FINE LINE
\$18/\$20/7PM/18+



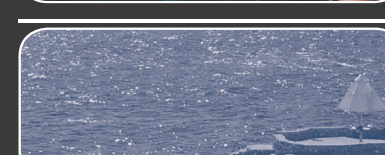
SATURDAY, JANUARY 28
WAX TAILOR
w/ L'ORANGE
at FINE LINE
\$15/\$18/8PM/18+



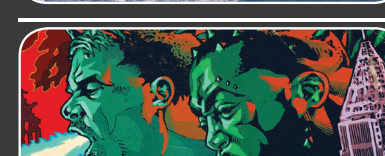
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3
First Avenue, Jam, and 89.3 The Current present
AN EVENING WITH DAWES
at STATE THEATRE
\$36/7PM/ALL AGES



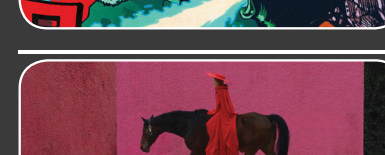
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8
SAFETYSUIT
w/ ROYAL TEETH
at FINE LINE
\$20/\$35 RESERVED BALCONY
7PM/18+



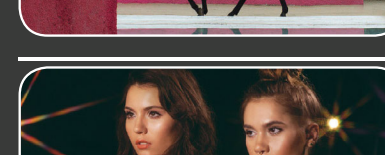
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11
CLOUD NOTHINGS
w/ MOON BROS.
at FINE LINE
\$16/\$18/\$30 RESERVED BALCONY
8PM/18+



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14
89.3 The Current presents
RUN THE JEWELS
RUN THE WORLD TOUR
w/ THE GASLAMP KILLER, GANGSTA BOO, NICK HOOK, CUZ
at MYTH NIGHTCLUB
\$30/\$35/7PM/ALL AGES



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17
AUSTRA
w/ THE RANGE
at TRIPLE ROCK
\$16/\$18/8PM/18+



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17
LILY & MADELEINE
at BRYANT LAKE BOWL
\$16/6PM/ALL AGES

2/18 DEAD MAN WINTER w/ GLEN'S NEIGHBOR at Pizza Luce (Duluth, MN)
2/23 NOSLEEP PODCAST at The Cedar
2/24 THUNDERCAT at Fine Line
2/25 PROF w/ FINDING NOVYON, METASOTA, WILLIE WONKA at Clyde Iron Works (Duluth, MN)
2/27 THE JAPANESE HOUSE at Triple Rock
2/28 ELECTRIC GUEST at Triple Rock
3/01 LOS CAMPESINOS! w/ CRYING at Triple Rock
3/03 THE RADIO DEPT. w/ GERMANS at Triple Rock
3/05 DEVENDRA BANHART at Fine Line

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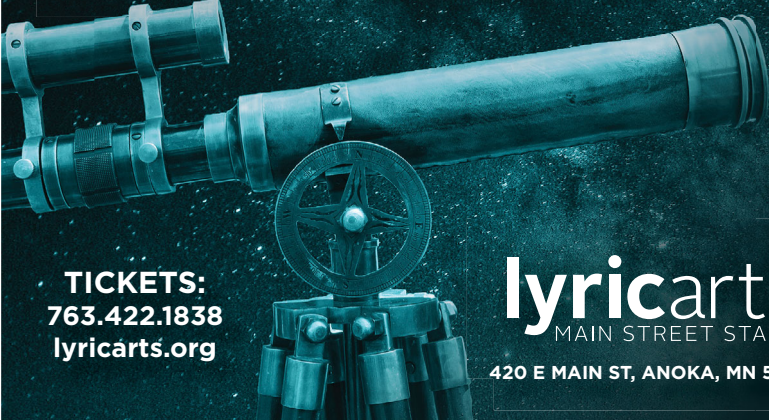
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JANUARY 6-22



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A-LIST

CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ►

whose propensity for curiosity and joy endure despite the horrors of war. Through her piece, she engages the audience in a healing process, both for the survivors and for the witnesses. 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday. \$5.99-\$12.99. 2400 Third Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-874-0400. **Through Sunday —SHEILA REGAN**

COMEDY

HEATHER MCDONALD

MYSTIC LAKE CASINO HOTEL

Heather McDonald isn't afraid to say what she thinks. "I like that I can be honest and not give a shit," she says of her approach to standup and her *Juicy Scoop* podcast, which has managed to push through the crowded comedy/gossip/entertainment field to become one of the most consistently funny and engaging programs in the game today. "Screw it. I feel like I'm at the point in my career where I have the freedom to just air it out and say what I want. If someone has a juicy story, I want to hear it, I want to talk about it, and I want to name names." McDonald has taken over the comedy world in all aspects, whether it's appearances on the now-defunct *Chelsea Lately*, her

phenomenal standup special *I Don't Mean to Brag*, two best-selling memoirs, and that previously mentioned podcast. Regardless whether she's dishing on her own adventures in parenting and sex (not at the same time), or her take on the latest Hollywood dirt, McDonald is a rare type of performer who is equally funny regardless of the outlet. While she's known as an accomplished comedian, McDonald says that the shows this weekend in Minnesota are somewhat of a "thank you" for her loyal podcast listeners. "The reaction [to the podcast] has been the total surprise of my career," she says. "I love knowing that people listen to it while they're working out, doing data entry, or breastfeeding, and I'm really happy to have the chance to meet them in person." Will Weldon features. 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$19. 2400 Mystic Lake Blvd., Prior Lake; 800-262-7799.

Through Saturday —PATRICK STRAIT

COMEDY

ADAM YO

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

"People ask me, 'How do you juggle all these jobs?'" says comedian, actor, TV host, and radio DJ Michael Yo. "I find it pretty easy, because they're

DOGS

LAND O'LAKES KENNEL CLUB ALL-BREED DOG SHOW AND SPECIALTIES

SAINT PAUL RIVERCENTRE

This weekend, over 1,500 pups will be heading to St. Paul to make new friends and be adorable. The always popular Best in Show competition will whittle 4,000-plus entrants down to one magnificent canine as fans watch over 155 breeds jog, pose, and bark their way to top honors. Not all dogs are winners, however. Some are heroes. Guests will be invited to meet police and rescue dogs, who will be in attendance. Dogs are welcome at the Unleashed 1.0 Dog Expo, which will offer fun for animals and their human families, or check out demonstrations and products from over 70 vendors in the market area. Behind-the-scene tours on Saturday and Sunday are free. For tickets and more info, visit landolakeskennelclub.org. 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. \$9; \$5 kids ages 5 to 12. 175 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul; 651-265-4800. **Through Sunday —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**



COURTESY PHOTO



Meet this year's Shanty artists.

MAX HAYNES EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY

all entertainment. It's not like I do all these and then I'm a doctor at night. I compare it to being a chef at an American restaurant. No one says, 'Wow, you can cook a burger and make salmon and make fries.' It's just cooking. It's different products, but it's all in the same world." Unlike his colleagues on *Chelsea Lately*, Yo became a comedian after that show started. "I'd go to all these different markets to interview celebrities," he recalls. People would often ask where he was performing. "They just assumed that since I was on a show with comedians, I was a standup comedian too. The Asian side of me said, 'Business opportunity.' I was like, 'Let me try this.' I tried it once, did super well, and fell in love with it. Now I'm always in the clubs, always working stuff out and trying new material." 21+; 18+ later shows. 7:30 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday. \$22. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. **Through Saturday** —P.F. WILSON

SATURDAY 1.7

ART/GALLERY

ART SHANTY PROJECTS KICK-OFF EVENT

SOO VISUAL ARTS CENTER

You'll have to wait until February for the Art Shanty Projects to return to White Bear Lake for weekends filled with wacky parties, creative collaborations, and whimsical artworks. This Saturday, however, you can get a sneak peek at what's in store. Photography and other ephemera celebrating and reflecting on the shanties, which kicked off in 2005, will be on display. Guests will also be able to investigate mini-installations showcasing this year's

festival, which include the return of the Pedal Bear Bike and the Shanty of Misfit Toys. If you're feeling musical, join Norae Shanty's Mike Hoyt for some karaoke. Appetizers, drinks, and items for sale will round out this evening, which will serve as a benefit party as well. 6 to 9 p.m. Free. 2909 Bryant Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-871-2263. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

THEATER

24:00:00 XTREME THEATRE SMACKDOWN

STEPPINGSTONE THEATRE

Theatre Unbound's annual overnight playmaking festival used to be called the 24-Hour Play Project. Now, it has a more marketable name: 24:00:00 Xtreme Theatre Smackdown. Playwrights are given "ingredients," voted on via the company's website, that serve as the basis for scripts whipped up overnight. They work with directors (all female artists, like the writers, in keeping with the company's mission) throughout the next day to stage the shows, and rehearsals continue until it's almost showtime. The results are often surprisingly memorable. One 24-hour play about an encounter between a black girl and a white girl on a bus, written by Brenda Bell Brown and Toni Halleen, was subsequently restaged multiple times. "It's a great opportunity for actors," says executive director Anne Bertram, "and it's a very satisfying piece to watch." Bertram hints that "quite a lot" of people who have suggested ideas this year "use the phrase 'a nasty woman.'" Get ready for some righteous clapbacks. 8 p.m. \$18-\$22. 55 Victoria St. N., St. Paul; 612-721-1186. —JAY GABLER

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 ►



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TYLER EVIN



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COURTESY OF HEYDAY

CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ►

SPORTS

NORTH STAR ROLLER GIRLS

MINNESOTA STATE FAIRGROUNDS

This winter, the North Star Roller Girls are taking to the Minnesota State Fairgrounds to see which team can get their jammer around the track first. Tonight's double-header is the second of the season. Delta Delta Di will be going up against the fabulously named Kilmore Girls, while the Banger Sisters will duke it out with the Violent Femmes. All matches take place at the Warner Coliseum. Tickets and more info can be found at www.northstarrollergirls.com. 7 p.m. \$13. 1265 Snelling Ave., St. Paul; 651-288-4400. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

ART/GALLERY

HEART AND SOUL: PORTRAITURE AND THE BODY

FLOW ART SPACE

Eighteen artists explore the depths of human emotion through portraits at Flow Art Space, the second to last show in the gallery before owner Melissa May Metzler moves to Salt Lake City. Featuring 179 pieces — including paintings, photography, drawings, mixed-media, and sculpture — “Heart and Soul: Portraiture and the Body” includes artists from 10 different states, each selected through an open-call

process. Their work illuminates the human condition through their focus on the human body and expression. Among the featured are Minneapolis-based artist Christopher E. Harrison, who incorporates masks into his work; Tyler Evin, whose expressive drawings explore psychological territory; and Katie Schwehr, who draws on personal memory for her artwork. There will be an opening reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, January 7. 308 E. Prince St., St. Paul; 612-564-3569.

Through January 28 —SHEILA REGAN

ART/FAMILY

FREE FIRST SATURDAY: HERE AND THERE

WALKER ART CENTER

The Walker Art Center's monthly family-friendly happening kicks off 2017 with a variety of fun for kids and grownups. Check out quirky decor and architecture in the “Question the Wall Itself” exhibition, or gaze upon the ephemera of Chris Larson's “Land Speed Record,” which is closing soon. Larson will be leading hands-on art activities this day. Hayao Miyazaki's 1988 film, the adorable *My Neighbor Totoro*, will be screening in the Walker Cinema at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The animated flick follows two sisters who befriend a variety of colorful woodland creatures in rural Japan. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. 725 Vineland Pl., Minneapolis; 612-375-3600. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

SUNDAY 1.8

ART/GALLERY

REACHING BACKWARD, REACHING FORWARD: TRACING HISTORIES

BANFILL-LOCKE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

In her work, Kit Leffler manages nostalgia with whimsy and a singular skewed sensibility. Louella Mae Snider, the perennial pianist at Nye's, is one of characters she brings to vibrant life, along with the likes of such historical figures as Earl Bakken, John Banfill, and Pierre Bottineau. For this show, a new installation by Monica Sheets was also created with a historic eye trained on the suburb of Fridley. Architectural drawings of mid-century ramblers are accompanied by stories of the people who live there, providing a first-person ethnography of a place many dismiss and others call home. There will be an opening reception from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, January 8, and an artists' talk at 2 p.m. Sunday, January 22. 6666 E. River Rd., Fridley; 763-574-1850. Through February 4 —CAMILLE LEFEVRE

TUESDAY 1.10

BARHOPPING

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NOMAD WORLD PUB

This Tuesday, folks at the Nomad

World Pub will be getting a little geeky as Nerds of the Twin Cities host an unusual meeting of minds. During the event, revelers will be welcome to ponder questions both philosophical and scientific. Chemist Audrey Forticaux will explain the truths and plot contrivances of the *CSI* franchise, while journalist Davis Montgomery explores the history of democracy. And do we really “own” our smart phones? Or do they own and watch us in ways we have normalized over the years? Discuss this and more with Amanda LaGrange, CEO of Tech Dump. 7 to 9 p.m. Free. 501 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-338-6424. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

FOOD AND DRINK

RAW AND BUBBLE BAR

HEYDAY

If you missed out on champagne on New Year's Eve, you'll have a second chance at some bubbly at this special event at Heyday, as there will be cocktail and champagne specials all night. But the real showcase will be the seafood. Order up varieties of oysters shipped in from the Coasts, and garnish them with traditional toppings from each region. If you're especially hungry, try a \$10 oyster po' boy, or snack on a selection of tartares served with crudo. House-made bratwurst is also on the menu if meat is more your thing. 5 p.m. to midnight. 2700 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-200-9369. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER



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PRESENTS FROM HOLLYWOOD

10 movies to look forward to in 2017



Alien: Covenant

BY MICHAEL NORDINE

The year 2016 is finally behind us. And though it seems foolish to suggest — or even hope — that the new year will treat us better, cautious optimism seems the most reasonable approach. The movies will once again provide a temporary escape from whatever ills reality inflicts upon us; here are 10 to look forward to.

Alien: Covenant

If last summer's multiplex offerings taught us anything, it's that getting excited about sequels, remakes, and other tentpole fare invites disappointment. Ridley Scott has had a hand in two movies this year that, fingers crossed, could prove exceptions. The first is a bridge between *Prometheus* and the original *Alien*, whose singular mood no sequel nor imitator has ever been able to fully recapture.

The Bad Batch

Ana Lily Amirpour made a name for herself with *A Girl Walks Home Alone*

at Night. By all accounts her sophomore effort has upped the ante. *The Bad Batch* has been described as a post-apocalyptic curio that's equal parts *Mad Max* and *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. If that alone doesn't pique your interest, you may have more refined taste than I do.

Blade Runner 2049

Ridley Scott didn't direct this sequel-come-lately to his sci-fi classic, passing the reins to *Sicario* and *Arrival* helmer Denis Villeneuve. What little we've seen of it suggests that the Quebécois' vision is in keeping with the original film, adding Ryan Gosling and a slew of others as it expands the Replicant mythos and offers us another glimpse of a near-future Los Angeles in which all moments will be lost like tears in rain.

Donald Cried

Here's a rarity: a low-key indie about a thirtysomething dude returning to his hometown that isn't the slightest bit twee or enervating. An insightful take

on strained friendships and the divide between how we think of ourselves and how the people we grew up with do, Kristopher Avedisian's debut unfolds over one day rich in incident and mood. Avedisian plays the title character, a well-meaning manchild you'll develop a soft spot for — even if you can only handle him in small doses.

Life

Might 2017 be the year of worthwhile sci-fi at the multiplex? If even two of these three high-profile offerings land, we'll be in better shape than usual. Daniel Espinosa doesn't have the track record of either Scott or Villeneuve, but he does have a strong ensemble cast led by Jake Gyllenhaal and Rebecca Ferguson and an original (if seemingly derivative) script to work with. Astronauts aboard the International Space Station discover what could be the first real evidence of intelligent life beyond Earth — and, as dictated by the genre, everything goes downhill from there.

The Lost City of Z

Though it's yet to find the audience it deserves, James Gray's *The Immigrant* is one of the best, most moving films of the last several years. (It's also on Netflix, so do yourself a favor and watch it.) His follow-up dramatizes the real-life quest of a British explorer to find a lost ancient city in the Amazon in the 1920s — and the subsequent efforts to find him after he goes missing.

Personal Shopper

During a scene in which Kristen Stewart sits in the dark staring at nothing in Olivier Assayas' newest film, I literally thought to myself, "This is why I go to the movies." The oft-underrated Stewart stars as both a personal shopper and spiritualist, meaning she tries on expensive clothes in Paris and wanders through creaky old houses in search of ghosts.

The Salesman

Asghar Farhadi ranks among the foremost dramatists in the world, and though *The Past* didn't quite live up to *A Separation*, his latest is said to be another standout. Winner of two awards at last year's Cannes Film Festival, this *Death of a Salesman*-inspired story sounds like a neorealist yarn that few others could unspool with such skill.

Slack Bay

For years, Bruno Dumont was one of the world's most reliably pessimistic auteurs. Films like *Twentynine Palms* and *Hors Satan* evinced such a bleak worldview that his three-and-a-half-hour miniseries/film *L'il Quinquin* hardly seemed to have been made by the same filmmaker. If early word is to be believed, *Slack Bay* is another darkly funny tale that once again mines the absurdity of existence for laughs rather than despondent sighs. Fun!

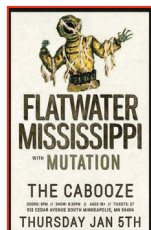
Weightless

Terrence Malick has become considerably more prolific in recent years, but a new movie by the poetically minded auteur is always welcome. Details are characteristically scarce about his latest, which stars Ryan Gosling, Christian Bale, Rooney Mara, Cate Blanchett, and Michael Fassbender, among others, which is just as well: Malick has the rare ability to surprise even his most ardent admirers with each new work. **C**

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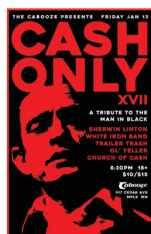
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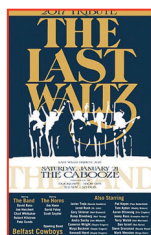
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MORTAL COMBAT

Annie Enneking choreographs big battles on Twin Cities stages



Enneking choreographs an intense scene for *Extremities*

JARED ZEIGLER

BY JAY GABLER

Picture this: Young Scout and Jem Finch are tussling with a mysterious assailant. It's dark, with flashes of lightning. By the end, one of the combatants has a knife in his belly. Now imagine making that fight look convincing in front of a thousand people seated in tiers around a thrust stage — and to make it happen again and again, almost every day, for weeks.

"That means these actors can never not be touching," remembers Annie Enneking about that nighttime scene in the Guthrie's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. "It's about shoving and moving. I love super-connected fights, because you don't need to worry about who can see the moment. Every single moment can be revealed."

Enneking is a fight choreographer, one of the busiest in the Twin Cities. When a script calls for confrontation, she works with directors and actors to create violent movement "that is repeatable and safe, but does not look that way."

Whether it's a domestic dispute or a deadly duel, Enneking is on hand to help. She emphasizes that onstage combat is all about narrative. "You always want the movement to be connected to the story," she says. "Even if it's just a slap, there's the beginning of the story, the middle of the story, and the end of the story."

After studying dance in college, Enneking became fascinated with stage combat when she worked as a fight captain — the person who supervises a fight day-to-day, after a fight choreographer has created the movement — in a production of *The Hobbit* at the Children's Theatre Company.

"We had to study broadsword," she remembers, "and as soon as I held that in my hand, I just felt a ringing through my arm and I understood it."

Now a director will bring Enneking in during the rehearsal process to develop the specific actions the cast will follow

when it's time for characters to come to blows. The rehearsal process starts in slow motion, then gradually accelerates. "Usually if everything looks really good in slow motion," Enneking says, "it's going to look really good when it's up to show speed."

Enneking and the actors she works with are always aware of audience members' perspectives: what they can see and what they can't see. One of her most challenging, but rewarding, recent projects was Dark & Stormy Productions' *Extremities*, a show that required the cast to enact an attempted rape in a small space.

"It was very intimate, really horrible violence," she remembers about that show. "I just wanted it to feel really squishy and connected, and we were able to create that together because we had time and we all understood the gravity of the situation."

Sometimes, on the other hand, less can be more. "Why do we always have to see the whole thing?" Enneking asks. "What if I shove you behind the couch and I'm punching the hell out of you, but the audience doesn't get to see that?"

It's no coincidence that Enneking's field is called fight choreography: As a dancer and actor, she appreciates stage movement on many levels. "It's everything I love about theatricality and commitment and passion," she says, "all in this one thing." **CP**

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On Coco: Coco and Breezy eyewear, MILLY sweater, BLK denim pants, Ralph Lauren leather jacket, Dr. Marten boots. On Breezy: Coco and Breezy eyewear, Uniqlo sweater and pants, Gold Nike Air Force 1s.

Your favorite publication for fashion inspiration?

Toksick Magazine.

One tip for self-care in the winter?

It's important to keep your skin moisturized.



DESTINY ANDERSON

18, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT/
PROFESSIONAL DANCER

What are you wearing?

Denim overalls with a Mickey and Minnie Mouse patch, Oregon cap, Timberland boots.

Describe your style:

Eclectic and androgynous.

Best fashion advice?

You wear the clothes; don't let the clothes wear you.



GABBY BOLATTO

18, CO-OWNER/CREATIVE DIRECTOR OF
PACIFY MINNEAPOLIS CLOTHING BRAND

What are you wearing?

Levi's pants and Ralph Lauren turtleneck thrifted from Goodwill. Converse shoes.

Describe your style:

Thrifted. I usually add things like paint, patches, pins, or embroidery.

Your favorite publication for fashion inspiration?

Slashstroke Magazine.



SAI KILP

29, LGBTQ CASE MANAGER
AT YOUTHLINK

What are you wearing?

Forever 21 jacket, DJ Keezy sweatshirt, Zara pants, H&M shoes.

One tip for self-care in the winter?

In addition to time alone, self-care also needs to be sought within your community, or with another loving soul.

Best fashion advice?

Don't just copy and paste what you see. Make it speak to you.



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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

We ask the Twin Cities music community about the mystical art of band naming

BY SIRI UNDLIN

Fueled by equal parts pamplemousse La Croix and generous hits of Pineapple Express, my bandmates and I enter the second hour of a band-name black hole, the depths of which appear infinite.

“Seriously, guys,” Dexter Wolfe implores, “I think we should be considering ‘Arm,’” gesturing with his left appendage for effect.

Lazily sprawled across the living room, the three of us have long diverged from any semblance of serious brainstorming, and my abs ache from belly laughs.

“I keep coming back to ‘Fork,’” Pat Keen muses.

Earlier in the day, I became convinced that “Narwalnia” was the answer, only to find that my level of enthusiasm for combining Arctic sea creatures with C.S. Lewis’ fantastical land wasn’t shared.

“Pale Nimbus!” Pat shouts.

We continue on in this manner for quite some time.

Over the two years we’ve performed as Undlin & Wolfe, we’ve grown tired of introducing ourselves by a moniker that even the best-intentioned folks struggle to pronounce, or worse, remember.

A change is needed, but band names are fickle things, at times enigmatic, ironic, effortless, clunky, or seemingly predestined. They can be as irreverent as the Butthole Surfers or as non-negotiable as Led Zeppelin. Last names, stage names, animals, numbers, foreign languages — the horizon is endless, and that’s the trouble: It’s easy to overthink a band name. Then again, it would be foolish to not think carefully about a band name, probably the most important tool in your music-branding arsenal.

So, armed with curiosity and a self-serving interest in cracking the elusive code, I set out to ask members of the local music community: What makes a good band name?

“I feel like a lot of my friends, or musicians I know, are constantly thinking about band names,” says Hilary James of We Are the Willows and Fiji-13.

James explains the coincidental origin of Fiji-13, her feminist surf-punk trio: “I had written a really stupid song and was like, ‘Man, this would be perfect for that band we’re never gonna start.’ My sister was



GRAHAM TOLBERT

like, ‘Let’s call [the band] ‘PG-13’ and our friend John was like, ‘Did you say PG-13 or Fiji-13?’ It was a done deal.”

James whips out a napkin, where she has scribbled out band name categories: person and people names, funny/joke names, names you can never remember how to spell, etc. Focusing in on a column of animal-themed monikers, she explains, “Animal names seemed really popular in the mid-2000s. I get them all confused, too — like Deer Hunter and Deer Tick. I really like one of them and I don’t like the other, but I can never remember which one.”

She counts off other examples of this band-name trope on her fingertips: Grizzly Bear, Phox, Foxes in Fiction, Red Fox Grey Fox.

“It’s like this mass movement of forest creatures,” she says, “which is pretty dope.”

While some band names are stumbled upon, others congeal around a tribal sense of belonging. Bands like Animal Collective or Cloud Cult evoke feelings of a shared experience that can become as much a defining aspect of the group as the music itself. TABAH, a local band with a mystically groovy sound, combined phonemes (originally two separate nicknames) into a word that they felt embodied the “blank and meaningless canvas” of their project.

As their music gained traction, they

learned from listeners that in Urdu, the national language of Pakistan, TABAH means destruction or ruined, while in Malay, a popular Southeast Asian language, TABAH means perseverance. The band members adopted those definitions as a sort of mantra.

“We observe the destruction and perseverance in our day-to-day lives,” TABAH’s Cecilia Erholtz explains. “It seems there is always another mountain to climb, one after another.”

In reflecting on band names in general, she asserts that “every band name creates a certain aesthetic and should be a strong representation of how the group represents itself before and after the music is heard.”

“Adjective plus plural noun equals a lot of band names,” surmises Matt Bedrosian, the driving force behind Minneapolis freak-funk group P • PL. “I tried not to get stuck in that worn-out formula; there are some great bands that use it, though.”

Trial and error led Bedrosian to P • PL.

“A good band name is vague enough to allow people their own interpretation but familiar enough to associate with,” he says. “I was toying with the name ‘Girly Mag,’ but I asked a few women if it was offensive and they almost unanimously said that it was. I didn’t want to alienate anyone — that might have been part of why [the name]

went in the direction of P • PL.”

Transitioning to the more head-banging, sword-wielding corners of our fair city, the Ass Bastards of Mordor carry the torch of orc-rock and are self-recognized as the No. 2 *Lord of the Rings*-themed band in Minneapolis. Last year, the group won a City Pages poll asking for the best/worst local band name, topping the likes of Gay Witch Abortion, the Pistol Whippin’ Party Penguins, and the unfortunate RapeDoor.

A.B.O.M.’s spokesman, Alec “Bearporn” Austin, explains that, “A fair number of people have told us over and over at shows that they came out because they saw the name and it was goofy, err, I mean badass enough to get them to come see what the hell warrants such a title.” Admitting that one member once pushed for the band to drop “Of Mordor” out of concern that people wouldn’t take the group seriously, Austin points out the flaw in this thinking.

“In truth nobody should take us seriously, and we are nerds,” he says, adding that, “The only other [band name] candidate was something like Phantom Zombies, which is rad, but not bathed in enough runes of orcish blood to really function properly for us.”

Krista Vilinskis is the founder of Tinderbox Music, a Twin Cities-based promotion/distribution company. She’s worked with bands to change their names, a process she acknowledges is no easy task.

“It is much easier to promote a band with a good band name,” Vilinskis explains, “a name that rolls off the tongue, sounds pleasing to the ear, is memorable, and most importantly does not offend anyone in the process.”

Recognizing that some communities might embrace certain band names for their shock value, she asks an important question of any truly ambitious musician: “Why make it harder on your band to be heard?”

Whether you’re engaged in Middle Earth battles of rock ‘n’ roll or lulling your audience into a trance via forest-crittred folk songs, word of mouth is a powerful force that can change a band’s career, particularly for emerging artists. In what becomes an elaborate game of telephone between musicians, promoters, writers, and music lovers — one that spans zip codes, social media posts, blogs, and show posters — the ineffable equation of making music that resonates under a name people will remember seems to win out.

The members of Undlin & Wolfe are open to suggestions.

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CRITICS' PICKS

ANDREW BRODER & PEOPLE

TURF CLUB, WEDNESDAY 1.4

The 2016 return of Fog, the beloved project of the prolific and ever-experimental Minneapolis musician Andrew Broder, ended a nearly decade-long span without a new Fog album. April's *For Good* was immediately well received, a genre-less showcase of Broder's emotive singing voice and knack for inventive electronic texturing. The rest of his catalog, which includes four other Fog full-lengths and records with rock outfits Lateduster and the Cloak Ox, has long since made him a seminal figure in Minnesota music. Along the way, he's made more than a few friends, making possible his weekly residency this month at the Turf Club, dubbed "Andrew Broder & People: A Residency for Music and Action." For this first show, he'll be joined by rapper Crescent Moon (aka Alexei Moon Casselle, with whom Broder released a six-song EP last year) and experimental hip-hop outfit Kill the Vultures (Crescent Moon and producer Anatomy), plus Polica's Channy Leaneagh, who will spin a DJ set. Proceeds will be donated to the Confederation for Somali Community in Minnesota. Low's Alan Sparkhawk and St. Paul R&B wunderkind Dizzy Fae are among the guests set to perform at future shows. 21+. 8 p.m. \$6. 1601 University Ave., St. Paul; 651-647-0486. —MICHAEL MADDEN

SEMISONIC

THURSDAY 1.5 (TURF CLUB) & SATURDAY 1.7 (FIRST AVENUE)

Twin Cities-based Semisonic fans rejoiced last September when the locally bred "Closing Time" hitmakers announced their first concerts in more than four years. Adding even more intrigue to the event, the three-piece is set to perform their 1996 debut, *Great Divide*, in its entirety. Semisonic — made up of singer/guitarist Dan Wilson, bassist John Munson, and drummer Jacob Slichter — formed in Minneapolis in 1995 under the name Pleasure, and released the first of their three albums for MCA Records the following spring. Neither *Great Divide* nor any of its singles performed up to the major label's expectations, but a No. 1 hit was just around the corner with 1998's "Closing Time." "[*Great Divide*] reflects a lot of who we wanted to be as a band — dreamy, groovy, and skronky," Slichter tells City Pages. Semisonic last played together in 2012, headlining the Current's Minnesota Music-on-a-Stick concert at the state fair and rocking Our Lady of the Lake's Blast Block Party in Mound, Minnesota. 7 p.m. Thu.; 8 p.m. Sat. Sold out. 1601 University Ave. W., St. Paul; 651-647-0486 and 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —ALEX RICE

SIMS

FIRST AVENUE, FRIDAY 1.6

Minneapolis rapper and Doomtree member Sims is rarely perceived as the local hip-hop collective's best-known member — that's usually P.O.S or Dessa — but lately, he's been hard to ignore. His latest album and first in five years, the fiery *More Than Ever*, was released last November, ensuring his time in the spotlight even in the midst of other notable 2016 happenings within Doomtree (like P.O.S' strong new singles and Dessa's appearance on the Billboard 200-topping *Hamilton Mixtape*). The 13-track album is Sims' best work yet, easy: His rapping has never sounded more inspired, while the dense and frenetic production from Lazerbeak, Paper Tiger, and ICETEP is comparable to ELP's world-class beatmaking for Run the Jewels. Friday's show in First Avenue's Mainroom will mark Sims' first time headlining the venue on his own (he co-headlined with fellow local Astro-nautalis in both 2013 and '14), and he'll be joined by young Milwaukee rapper WebsterX, Chicago's Air Credits (rapper ShowYouSuck and production duo the Hood Internet), and promising Minneapolis duo Nazeem & Spencer Joles. 18+. 8 p.m. \$15. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —MICHAEL MADDEN

PLEDGE EMPIRE RECORDS' "WELCOME BACK FROM AUSTRALIA SHOW"

7TH ST. ENTRY, TUESDAY 1.10

Minneapolis' Rhymesayers Entertainment and Doomtree Records are two of the most important indie rap labels ever, but that doesn't mean there isn't room for the Twin Cities to have others. There's also the rising Pledge Empire Records, whose roster includes the deep-voiced realist Ced Linus, the versatile Sti-Lo Reel, new addition Niko Slim, and U.K. artist Mastermind. They call themselves "the fastest-growing independent hip-hop label in the Twin Cities," and their professionalism — not to mention the consistent quality of the music they put out — is helping to establish them as reliable class acts. The most recent releases in the ever-expanding Pledge Empire catalog include Linus's new EP, *Autumn Sessions (Session 1)*, and Sti-Lo's equally solid album from last year, *Martial Law*. Tuesday's "Welcome Back from Australia Show" celebrates their recent international touring, and it will feature various friends of the label, like Tek, Lyric Marid, and Reefa Rei. 18+. 8 p.m. \$10-\$12. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —MICHAEL MADDEN

Just Drinks

How can I help my brother find a reliable escort?

My brother is a virgin and turning 30 in a few weeks. He said he wants to hire an escort just for drinks and conversation for his birthday, but he doesn't really know how to tell what a reliable service is or which agency is legit, reliable, etc. I'm very happy he came to me with this because I can tell it's not something he wants to share with many people—but I don't have any advice or knowledge to pass on. Do you have any advice in regards to what he should be looking for?

MY YOUNGER BROTHER'S ROMANTIC ORDER

"Look to social media," says Mistress Matisse, a writer, sex worker, and sex-workers-rights activist. "Now that so many review boards have been taken down, social media is the best way to find a good independent escort."

Law enforcement agencies, always on the lookout for ways to "save" sex workers by making their jobs more dangerous, have gone after review boards, where clients rated and ranked escorts and—more importantly—escorts communicated with each other about safety, clients to avoid (flaky, rude, unhygienic), and clients they absolutely shouldn't see (erratic, threatening, violent). Elizabeth Nolan Brown wrote a great piece for Reason about the issue last fall ("The Truth About the Biggest U.S. Sex Trafficking Story of the Year," September 9, 2016).

"I'm not saying 'no social media' equals 'bad escort,'" says Matisse. "There are lots of good escorts who don't have much of a social-media presence. But if you want to get to know a little about who someone is before you meet them, that's just how you do it now."

Another rarely discussed, perfectly legal alternative: pay them to meet up for drinks and conversation, which just so happens to be all your brother wants (or all he's willing to tell you he wants).

"Obviously, this is not a good option for the budget-conscious," says Matisse. "But if you want to test your chemistry and create some trust on both sides before booking a private date, it's a solid way to go. Note the keyword, though: PAY her for her time."



Dan Savage

Most ladies have a public social meeting fee that's lower than private-time rates. And remember the basic rules when you do decide to set a private-time date: Don't ask about sex and don't talk about money other than to briefly acknowledge that you have seen her rates and agree to pay for her time. Expect to use condoms and to abide by the rules of whoever you're seeing."

You can follow Mistress Matisse on Twitter @mistressmatisse.

I'm a tall, slender, attractive, fit, artistic, female 65-year-old, taking testosterone, and now without a partner. I'm not sure how to go about engaging in noncommittal quick sex dates. I don't know of any escort services for the ladies. I'm also interested in exploring the bisexual side of life.

CURIOUS AND WONDERING

I'm going to echo Mistress Matisse and suggest diving into Sex Work Twitter. Most male sex workers target their online presence to other males, since men are likelier to buy sex, but many male escorts are bisexual or straight but gay-for-pay. They'll happily see female clients, as will many female sex workers. You just gotta ask—politely and, again, without talking about sex explicitly. Remember: You're paying for the escort's time; anything else that happens is just consenting adults doing consenting adult things.

I have a suggestion for GAYMAN, the guy who just got out of an abusive relationship and wanted to know how to reconnect with his sexuality and other gay men. I came out three years ago, and I must say that joining the organization Frontrunners changed my life. It's an LGBTQ-friendly group, and I found so much support there. I've met so many LGBTQ people, from all backgrounds, with extremely varied interests, and it really opened me up socially.

RUNNING WHILE QUEER

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53	54						55	56	57	58				
59					60							61		
62						63						64		

CAN I GET BACK TO YOU?

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 Reb's outfit: Abbr.
4 Looking over
9 Acronym in education
emphasizing the
hard subjects
13 Falcons, on scoreboards
14 Bullring man
16 Room connector
17 Regals from Wisconsin's
biggest city?
20 Race in the year 802,701
21 The Lone Ranger's buddy
22 Alcoholic beverages on
some sci-fi shows?
27 Cardboard ____
30 "Is it soup ____?"
31 Marsupial mistaken
for a bear
32 Sign over
33 Of utmost importance
34 Painter's tool
36 Put imperfections on
expensive rocks?
[Crosses fingers]
40 Bat crap
41 Communion service
42 Inch along laterally
43 "Tamerlane" poet
46 "I pity the fool" speaker
47 Regret one has about not
doing glute exercises?
50 Cuban dance
52 Just for men
53 All of Thelma's friend's
belongings got
thrown skyward?

Down

- 1 Stumbled upon
2 “___ Nacht” (German Christmas carol)
3 Ranging, full-on
4 Three after delta
5 BEQ fan, presumably
6 Bother deeply
7 Banns word
8 ___ Green (onetime Scottish place for elopers)
9 “This isn’t good”
10 “Live Más” chain
11 Antelope
12 Seattle Sounders’ org.
15 Wind in a pit
18 Switch granddaddy
19 “Young” folks, for short
23 Shirts’ opponents in a pickup game
24 Too ___ handle
25 Baby’s cry
26 Dishonest and unprincipled
28 Some verses
29 One who grew up with an Atari 2600, briefly
32 Nile queen, casually
33 Tries for a title
34 King’s space

- 35 Craigslist seller, at times
36 Horselaugh
37 Brown delivery van
38 Aikido alternative
39 “Let me think... “
42 Equilibria
43 Lumberjack’s tool
44 Moving without thinking
45 Omelet maker
47 #2s
48 Host Lauren of the NPR
show “The Big Listen”
49 Pres. who fought 1-Across
51 Illegal highway
maneuvers
53 Simmering, say
54 Peace activist Yoko
55 “Speaking frankly,”
in texts
56 Peach or lime
57 Organist Stubblefield
58 Total after taxes

Last Week's Answer

O	K	R	A		B	L	O	W	N		C	A	S	A
D	E	A	N		M	A	R	I	A		A	J	A	X
D	E	R	G	U	I	T	A	R	S		R	A	G	E
S	L	E	E	T		E	L	E	C	T	O	R	S	
			R	A	J		A	H	L					
B	O	G			H	U	M	P	H	R	E	Y	A	R
A	C	E			D	A	L	I		O	N		L	O
L	T	R			M	O	N	A	D	I	C		O	B
S	A	M	O	A		D	Y	E	S			F	E	N
A	D	S		F	R	O	M	A	F	A	R		T	D
			U	S	B			Y	E	S				
	W	A	S	H	T	U	B	S		A	L	O	H	A
M	I	R	E		A	L	L	I	S		S	L	A	N
E	D	I	T		I	N	E	R	T		K	E	M	P
R	E	D	O		N	A	D	E	R		E	L	I	S

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